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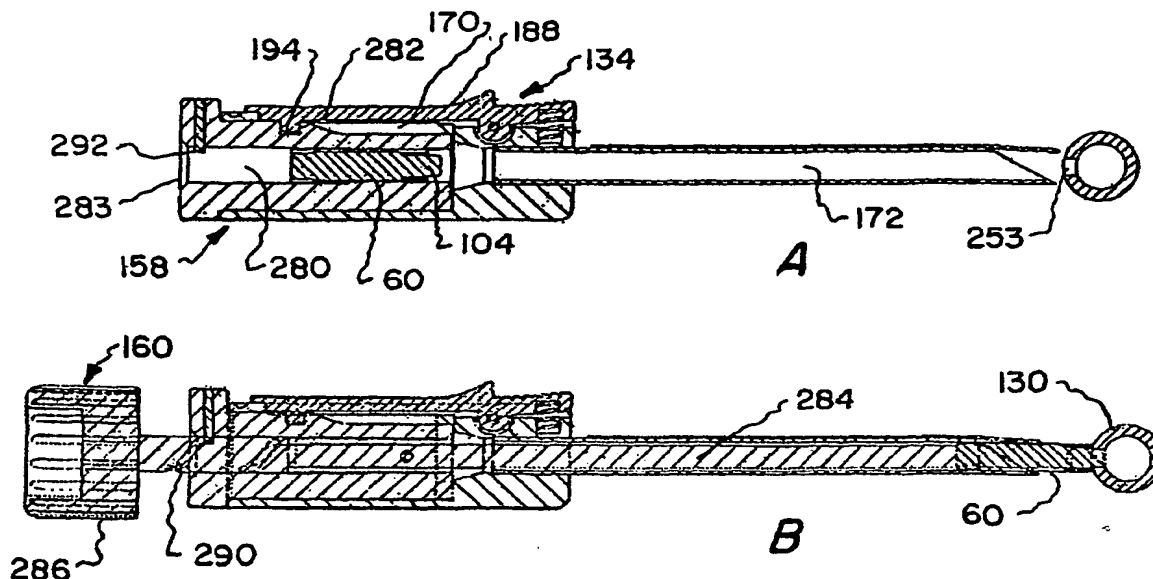
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SET AND PROCEDURE FOR IMPLANTING SOUND TRANSDUCER PROXIMATE TO PATIENT'S OUTER EAR CANAL**



(57) Abstract: A hearing aid system (10) including an implantable device (60), and a surgical instrument (134) for enabling a physician to install the implant (60) in a patient's body in a simple office procedure using only local anesthesia.

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